

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11-13, 15-18, and 20 have been amended, but not in view of prior art.

The amendments made herein are for the purposes of clarifying, and, indeed, broadening the scope of the claimed subject matter. Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,671,373 (*Pang*). In particular, the Examiner appears to argue that the subject matter disclosed at col. 4, line 34 through col. 5, line 40 of *Pang* teaches the claimed features of all 20 pending claims. The Applicants respectfully disagree, and traverse this rejection.

Pang is directed to providing DC feed control to a subscriber loop. The passage relied upon by the Examiner from *Pang* to reject the claims fails to disclose one or more of the claimed features. Consider claim 1, for example. As an initial matter, claim 1 calls for receiving a digital input signal. In contrast, the discussion in *Pang* surrounds the use of the input signal V_{ab} , which *Pang* clarifies is the “voltage measured between the tip and ring terminals of the subscriber liner.” *Pang*, col. 4, lines 37-39. Thus, contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, *Pang* fails to teach the first claimed feature of “receiving a digital input signal.” For at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Similarly, *Pang* fails to teach other features of claim 1. For example, claim 1 calls for providing the first DC component value to a digital-to-analog converter in response to determining that the difference is less than a first selected value. In *Pang*, there is no description of a first DC component value being provided to a D/A converter based on determining that the difference between the first and second DC component values is less than a first selected value. For this additional reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable.

The other independent claims (and their respective dependent claims) are further allowable in view of the claimed features recited therein.

Arguments with respect to other dependent claims have been noted. However, in view of the aforementioned arguments, these arguments are moot and therefore not specifically addressed. To the extent that characterizations of the prior art references or Applicants' claimed subject matter are not specifically addressed, it is to be understood that Applicants do not acquiesce to such characterization.

Unless the claim elements expressly employ the "means for" or "step for" language, all of the elements of claim are expressed in non-means-plus or non-step-plus function form, and thus should not be construed according to 35 U.S.C. Section 112, paragraph 6.

In light of the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-20 are allowable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, **the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney** at the Houston, Texas telephone number (713) 934-4064 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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